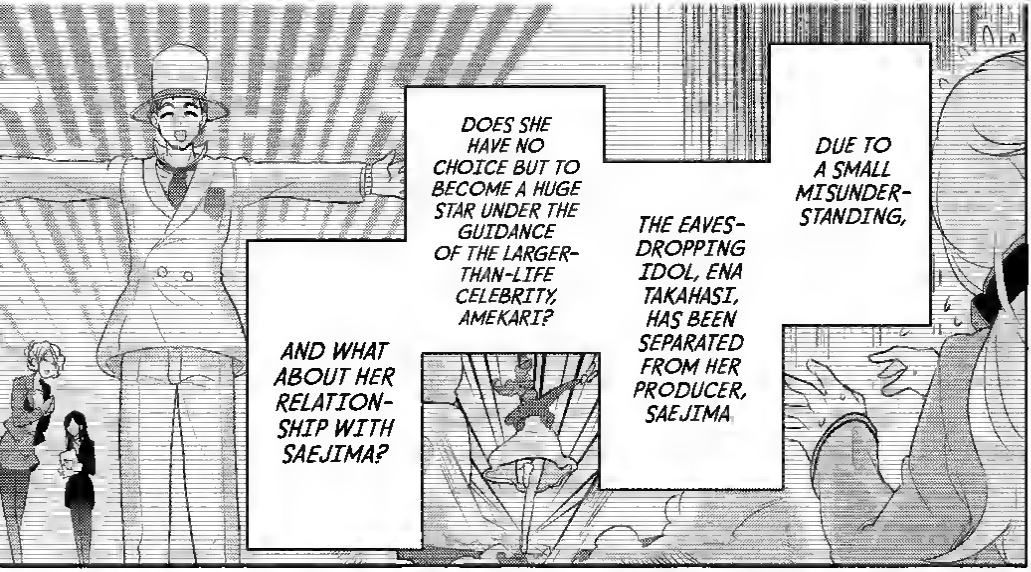
Takahashi-san
is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。

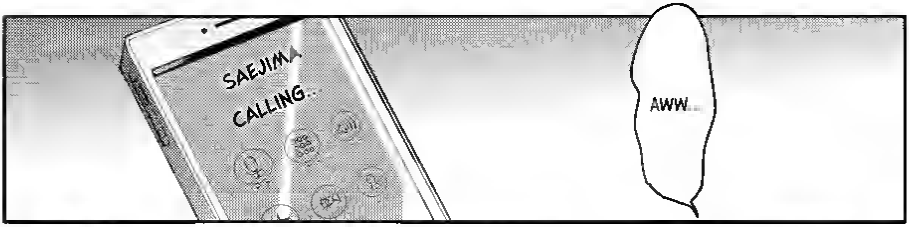

DUE TO A SMALL MISUNDER-STANDING,
THE EAVES-DROPPING IDOL, ENA TAKAHASI, HAS BEEN SEPARATED FROM HER PRODUCER, SAEJIMA
DOES SHE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BECOME A HUGE STAR UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE LARGER-THAN-LIFE CELEBRITY, AMEKARI?
AND WHAT ABOUT HER RELATION-SHIP WITH SAEJIMA?

I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE IT FOR YOU TO STICK TO YOUR SCHEDULE AS YOU HAVE BEEN
YES.
I BELIEVE THE NEXT THING ON YOUR AGENDA IS A LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE EVENT WHERE YOU WILL BE AN HONOURED GUEST
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO JUST KEEP DOING WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING?
OF COURSE!

CHAPTER 60: HOW TO WRITE A LETTER WITH FEELING

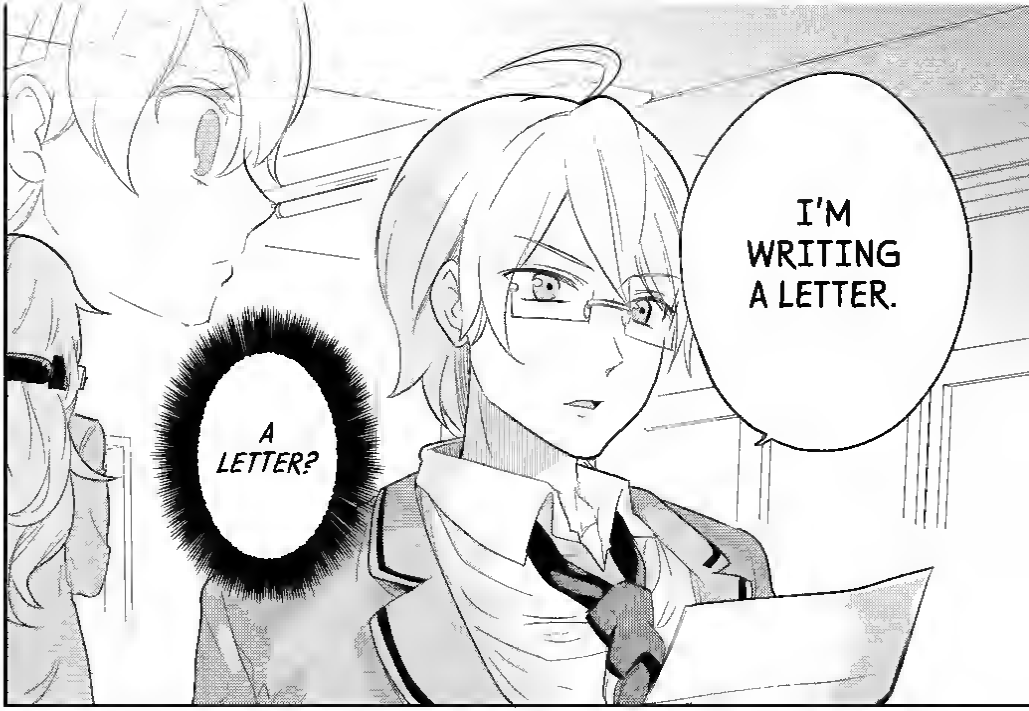
HUH?
HE'S ACTUALLY A PRETTY NORMAL PRODUCER?
YOU'LL GO FROM MAGAZINE ADS TO TV COMMERCIALS FROM BIT PARTS IN A MOVIE TO THE LEAD ROLE.
WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IN LIFE IS TAKING THINGS ONE STEP AT A TIME.
WE SHALL PROCEED BIT BY BIT.
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER?!
ZOOM
CHOP CHOP CHOP
WE'LL HAVE 120 FOUR-TON TRUCKS AND 12 HELICOPTERS. I PROMISE A TOUR SO FLASHY THAT IT SHALL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN!
ONCE WE SECURE THAT MUCH OF A FOOTHOLD, WE CAN DO A CROSS-CONTINENTAL TOUR STARTING IN AMERICA.
ALL OF THEM?!
THE VERY PEOPLE OF AMERICA SHALL SUPPORT YOU!
INTO SPACE?!
AND YOU WILL CARRY THEIR DREAMS INTO SPACE!
Hey, president!
HUH?!
ONCE YOU'VE GOTTEN THAT FAR, A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT WILL BE A PIECE OF CAKE!

I'VE FOUND MYSELF THINKING SOMETHING THAT HAS NEVER ONCE CROSSED MY MIND BEFORE
"I WANT TO RUN AWAY"
AND THEN,
AS THE GREAT STAR YOU WILL HAVE BECOME, YOU SHALL DELIVER A MESSAGE OF PEACE THE CITIZENS OF EARTH.
... ...
JUST THINKING ABOUT THE NOBLE NATURE OF YOUR CAUSE BRINGS A TEAR TO MY EYE!


SAEJIMA CALLING...
AWW...

A DYING MESSAGE?
DY-- WHO SAID I'M A MURDER VICTIM ?!

WHY WON'T SHE PICK UP HER PHONE? ALL I WANT IS A BIT OF ADVICE.
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ATTEND AN EVENT FEELING LIKE THIS.
WHAT ARE YOU WRITING, NARA-KUN?


I'M WRITING A LETTER.
A LETTER?

IT'S TO MY GRAND-MOTHER AND GRANDFATHER WHO LIVE OVERSEAS.
I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN A WHILE.
I JUST WANTED TO LET THEM KNOW HOW I'M DOING.
TH-THAT'S IT!

ALL RIGHT I SHOULD START WRITING NOW
CAN I READ IT?
HMM, I GUESS IT'S KIND OF HARD TO JUST START WRITING ALL OF A SUDDEN

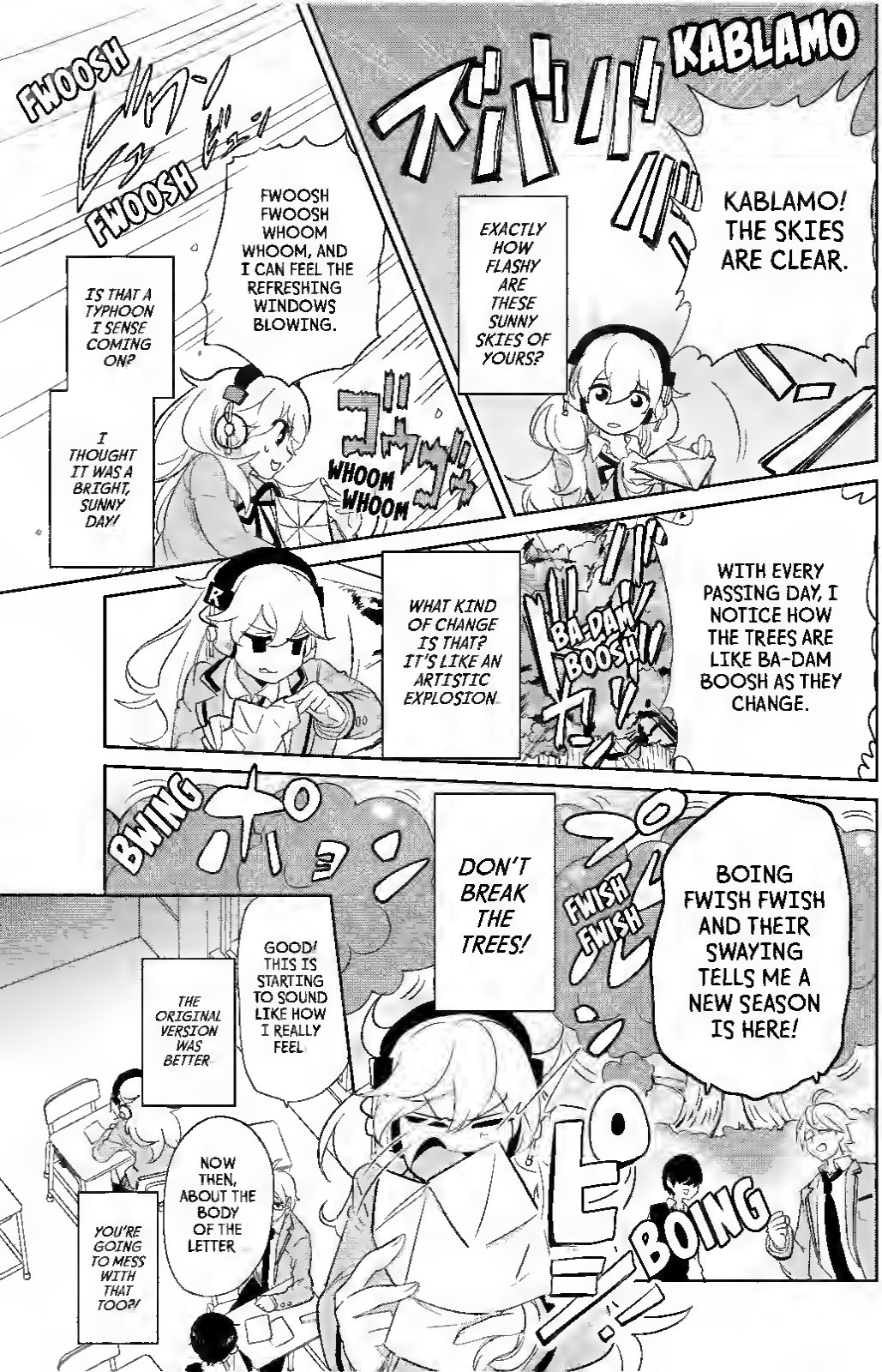
I CAN LET HER KNOW HOW I REALLY FEEL WITH A LETTER!
I'M SURE SHE'D SEND A REPLY.

THIS LETTER IS PRETTY GROUNDED LETTER. I'D EXPECT NO LESS.
I MEAN, I JUST SORT OF HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR THEM TALKING!
WHY DON'T I JUST TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED IN NARA-KUN'S LETTER WRITING EXPERIENCE?
IT'S SO DOWN TO EARTH THAT IT LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THOSE EXAMPLE LETTERS YOU'D FIND IN A TEXTBOOK.
The skies are clear, and I can feel the refreshing winds blowing. With every passing day, I notice how the trees are changing. Their swaying tells me a new season is here. It is gratifying for me to know you two are doing well.
HMPH. IS THAT SO?
IF I'M TOO RESERVED AND STICK TO FORMALITIES TOO MUCH, MY TRUE FEELINGS WON'T COME THROUGH.
WHAT DO YOU THINK MY LETTER IS LACKING?
IF WE TAKE THE INTRODUCTION AS AN EXAMPLE, WHAT WOULD BE GOOD?
WHAT DOES THE INTRODUCTION LACK?
LET'S SEE.
I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE BEST IF I PUT ASIDE MANNERS A BIT AND WERE HONEST ABOUT MY FEELINGS
RIGHT
I SEE. HE'S JUST GIVING NORMAL ADVICE.

RUMBLE
IT'S GOTTA HAVE ONOMATO-POEIA.
IS THIS THE START OF AN ONO-MATOPOEIA FESTIVAL?
FWIP
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

RIGHT NOW, I HAVE
"THE SKIES ARE CLEAR, AND I CAN FEEL THE REFRESHING WINDS BLOWING. WITH EVERY PASSING DAY, I NOTICE HOW THE TREES ARE CHANGING. THEIR SWAYING TELLS ME A NEW SEASON IS HERE."
ONOMATO-POEIA, HUH? I HADN'T EVEN REALIZED!
EVER HEARD OF GOING OVER-BOARD?
NOTHING GIVES DRAMATIC PRESENCE LIKE SOUND EFFECTS! MY FEELINGS WILL PRACTICALLY EXPRESS THEMSELVES THAT WAY

UH OH.
TIME TO ADD SOME ONOMATO-POEIA!
YOU'RE BETTER OFF NOT CHANGING IT
I THINK IT'S PRETTY GOOD


FWOOSH
FWOOSH
FWOOSH FWOOSH WHOOM WHOOM, AND I CAN FEEL THE REFRESHING WINDOWS BLOWING.
WHOOM WHOOM
IS THAT A TYPHOON I SENSE COMING ON?
I THOUGHT IT WAS A BRIGHT, SUNNY DAY!
KABLAMO
KABLAMO! THE SKIES ARE CLEAR.
EXACTLY HOW FLASHY ARE THESE SUNNY SKIES OF YOURS?
WITH EVERY PASSING DAY, I NOTICE HOW THE TREES ARE LIKE BA-DAM BOOSH AS THEY CHANGE.
BA-DAM BOOSH
WHAT KIND OF CHANGE IS THAT? IT'S LIKE AN ARTISTIC EXPLOSION.
BOING FWISH FWISH AND THEIR SWAYING TELLS ME A NEW SEASON IS HERE!
FWISH FWISH
DON'T BREAK THE TREES!
BWING
BOING
GOOD! THIS IS STARTING TO SOUND LIKE HOW I REALLY FEEL
THE ORIGINAL VERSION WAS BETTER
NOW THEN, ABOUT THE BODY OF THE LETTER
YOU'RE GOING TO MESS WITH THAT TOO?!

LET'S TRY A CHANGE OF PACE HERE.
HOW ABOUT EMOJI?
THE ENTIRE LETTER IS STARTING TO SOUND LIKE A BIG JOKE.
CRINKLE
EMOJI? THEY CALL THEM THE SAME THING OVERSEAS.
I'LL JUST POP SOME POP CULTURE RIGHT INTO MY LETTER.
SHOULDN'T WE KEEP SOME BOUNDARIES BETWEEN TEXTING AND WRITING LETTERS?
PUT THE EMOJI FOR THE PALM OF YOUR HAND HERE.
THE ONE FOR PRAYER SHOULD GO HERE.
THIS IS UP TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.
THIS IS GETTING COMPLICATED I'LL HAVE TO IMAGINE THEM AS I LISTEN.

WELL, SO FAR, I THINK IT'S GOING OKAY.
MY LIFE AT SCHOOL HAS BEEN GOING WELL.
IS THIS SAYING THAT HE HAD TO GO SOMEWHERE IN AN AMBULANCE?
IS THAT REALLY THE BEST CHOICE OF EMOJI?!
IT LOOKS LIKE MY LIFE IS GOING TO GET VERY BUSY SOON.
OUR SCHOOL FIELD TRIP
SOON
AND MY UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS
SOON
ETC
I QUITE ENJOY BEING BUSY AND
I'D LIKE TO SPEND EVERY DAY FEELING BRIGHT AND HAPPY.
AHH! IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING HAPPENED IN THAT MESS OF EMOJI.
I WANT TO KNOW! WHAT'S THE TRUTH HIDDEN BEHIND THOSE EMOJI?
AMAZING! NOW ALL WE NEED IS A GOOD CLOSER.
BOOSH!!
I THINK MAYBE YOU SHOULD
WE SHOULDN'T GET LAZY BECAUSE WE'RE ALMOST DONE.

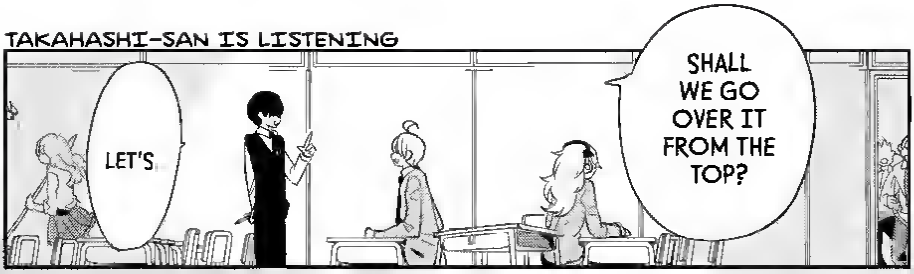
LET'S END WITH SOME-THING FUN. A CYPHER!
WE'LL PUT THE SYLLABLE "TA" IN EVERY WORD WE CAN.
TANUKI!/*
*TANUKI ARE RACCOON DOGS, BUT THE WORD AND JAPANESE CAN ALSO BE READ AS "REMOVE THE 'TA'!"
A CIPHER USING A SOUND, HUH?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT WILL BE A BIT TOO PUZZLING?
I DON'T THINK THAT COUNTS AS A PUZZLE
YOU USUALLY SEE THIS KIND OF THING DRAWN WITH A CUTE TANUKI WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE HINT TO TAKE OUT THE "TA" SOUND.
Gootad atafternotaon. Hotaw dota you tado?
I GET IT ALREADY. MIKAGE-KUN, THAT'S A PRETTY SIMPLE--
AND RIGHT HERE.

YOU SHOULD INSERT A PICTURE OF YOURSELF, NARA-KUN.
WHAT?!
NOT A PICTURE OF A TANUKI?
A BOLD DRAWING. HOLD NOTHING BACK.
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
LET THE TEARS FLOW AS IF FROM A FOUNTAIN.
THE "TA" IS FOR NARA-KUN'S TEARS?!
AND WHY AM I CRYING IN THE VERY LETTER I'M WRITING?
THAT'S RIGHT!
NO, TO BEGIN WITH, YOU SHOULD HAVE DRAWN THE LINE AT DRAWING YOUR FACE.
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE?
YOU'RE CRYING. LIKE I SAID...

HOW IS THAT ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE TANKUKI PUZZLE?
Anywtaay, I tado hotape you sttaay in gootad heatalth.
YOUR TEARS SHOULD FLOW LIKE A FOUNTAIN. FOUNTAIN.
AND THEY WOULDN'T WANT THAT!
THEY'LL HAVE TO LET THE TEARS WASH AWAY ALL THE TA'S. ISN'T THAT AN INTERESTING RIDDLE?
VS
FWOOSH

TONK
I MANAGED TO CREATE A LETTER MORE PERFECT THAN I EVER IMAGINED.
YEAH.
WITH THAT, THE CLOSING IS PERFECT.

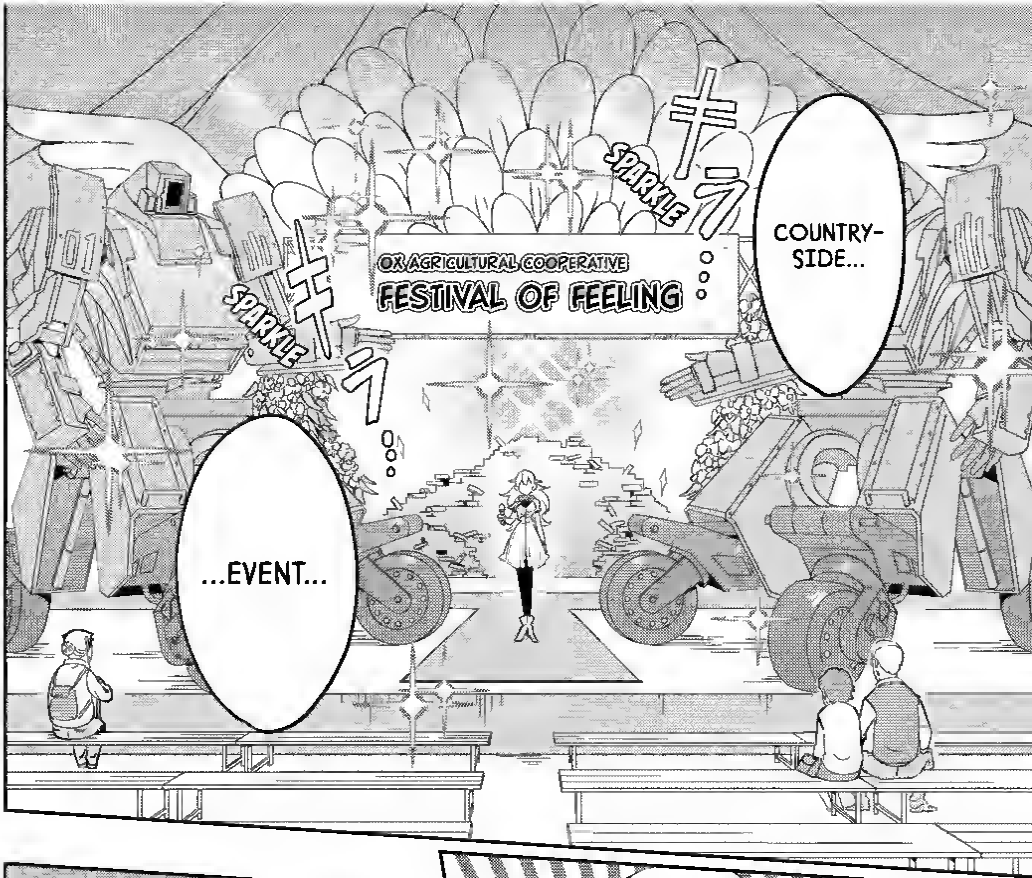
DEAR SAEJIMA,
YOUR ADVICE HAS STYMIED ME JUST AT WRITING THE NAME.
THINK OF ME AND THE LETTER I'M WRITING!
HOW SO?!
A LETTER THIS PERFECT MAY TRULY BE WORTH SELLING TO A TEXTBOOK COMPAMY TO USE AS AN EXAMPLE.


LET'S
SHALL WE GO OVER IT FROM THE TOP?

Dear grandmother and grandfather,
KABLAMO! The skies are clear.
FWOOSH FWOOSH WHOOM WHO
and I can feel the refreshing wind blowing. With every passing day, I noti
how the trees are like BA-DAM BOOSH as they change. BOING FWISH FWISH and their swaying tells me a new season is here.
START THE LETTER LIKE BLAM! WITH ONOMATO-POEIA!
Our school
has been
My university entrance
life is going
every day
THEN LET THE BODY OF THE LETTER DANCE WITH YOUR FEELINGS EXPRESSED IN EMOJI.
THEN I CLOSE WITH A DRAWING OF MY FOUNTAIN OF TEARS!
I CAN ONLY CALL THIS LETTER ONE THING.

I KNEW THAT FROM THE START!
COMPLETELY UN-UNDER-STANDABLE!
THIS IS NO GOOD AT ALL!
PANT
!?
!?
PANT
AND IF YOU WERE TO ASK WHAT THE WORST PART IS,
IT WOULD BE HOW ITS TWISTS AND TURNS SHOWCASE THE WRITER'S INABILITY TO EXPRESS ANYTHING AT ALL!
HUH?
THAT'S THE PROB-LEM?
SENDING A LETTER LIKE THIS
WOULD BE RUDE TO THE RECEIVER!

AS A GRAND-SON OF THE NARA FAMILY,
I WANT TO SHOW MY GRAND-PARENTS HOW HAPPY I AM!
WOULD IT BE RUDE TO NOT SHOW HER
. MY HAPPI-NESS?
I HAVE TO SHOW THAT SIDE OF ME TO AME-KARI-SAN TOO!
DASH
LET'S WRITE IT OVER AGAIN, MIKAGE
WHY DON'T WE TRY WRITING THIS ONE BACK-WARDS?
THAT'S RIGHT I HAVE TO SHOW ALL MY FANS HOW HAPPY I AM
SAEJIMA TOO!
LASTLY
NOW THEN!
POP
LET'S SHOW EVERYONE HOW HAPPY I--
THAT'S MY JOB!
I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE WORK THAT'S IN FRONT OF ME FIRST!
I CAN GET IN CONTACT WITH SAEJIMA SOME OTHER TIME
ENA-SAN! GOOD MORNING!
FESTIVAL OF FEELING


COUNTRY-SIDE...
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
OX AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE
FESTIVAL OF FEELING
...EVENT...

I HOPE YOU KEEP GIVING IT YOUR ALL IN THE FUTURE, ENA-SAN!
DOESN'T IT FEEL GOOD TO SPEND MONEY ON SOMETHING GOOD?
HA HA HA
SAEJIMA! PICK UP THE PHONE RIGHT NOW! RIGHT NOW!

IT DIDN'T EVEN COST ME 300 MILLION!
YOU SEE, THE GROUNDS WERE JUST SO PLAIN THAT I COULDN'T HELP THROWING SOME SPARE CHANGE AT IT.
A-ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH SPENDING ALL THIS MONEY ON OUR LITTLE EVENT?

English Digital Edition
Chapter 060

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

高橋さんが聞いている。, Chp. 60 ©2016 Yu Hokuo/SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.
First published in Japan in 2016 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.
Translation ©2016 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.